Free power connection under Kutir Jyoti Yojana in Uttaranchal

4294. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttaranchal Government propose to release free power connection to poor families under the Kutir Jyoti Yojana during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the financial help that has been or would be provided by the Centre to the State for the purpose; and

(c) whether any other plan is on anvil under the Rural Electrification Schemes in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. Uttaranchal Pradesh Government have informed that 40,450 connections to poor families living below the poverty line under Kutir Jyoti Programme were released during 2002-03 and have planned to release 40,000 connections during the year 2003-04.

(b) Rs. 7.281 crores were sanctioned in the financial year 2002-03 under Kutir Jyoti Programme. During the current year 2003-04, Government of Uttaranchal has proposed an allocation of Rs. 7.20 crores under Kutir Jyoti Programme.

(c) All the un-electrified villages are proposed to be electrified by the year 2005. Government of Uttaranchal proposes to electrify all un-electrified villages by the year 2005 by utilizing assistance available under various programmes including Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY).

Shortage of power in Maharashtra

4295. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government is aware that there is a shortage of electricity in Maharashtra and need for a additional electricity projects;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and planning to give additional electricity;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no provision for Energy Project in Tenth Five Year Plan for Maharashtra State; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides a firm allocation of 2125 MW from the Central Generating Stations (CGS) in Western Region (WR), Maharashtra has been allocated 24.5% (228.7 MW) out of the unallocated quota of CGS in WR as well as 80 MW from the unallocated/surrendered capacity in NTPC stations of Eastern Region.

(c) and (d) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Supply and distribution of electricity in a State is in the purview of State Government/State Power Utility concerned. The Central Government however supplements the efforts of the State Government by way of capacity addition through the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

A capacity of 500 MW in State Sector and 1444 MW in Private Sector is planned to be added in Maharashtra during the Tenth Plan period. In addition, a capacity of 5367 MW is also planned in the Central Sector in the Western region for benefits of constituent States in WR. However, in September, 2001 Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) communicated to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) that due to surplus power situation in the State till 2012, MSEB would not be availing power from any of the NTPC project planned in Tenth Plan. MSEB reviewed the position subsequently and have signed Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for availing power from Sipat-II and Vindhyachal Stage-III with NTPC in February, 2003. MSEB can also avail power from the three mega power projects (*viz.* Kahalgaon-II, Barh and North Karanpura) being set up by NTPC in the Eastern Region.

Activities of power racketeers

4296. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that power racketeers are financing unauthorized colonies in various parts of the country causing huge losses;

(b) if so, what are the estimated losses due to this; and

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent power thefts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.